



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,188	03/20/2001	Gunther Sawatzki	REF/SAWATZKI	3636

7590 12/03/2002
Bacon & Thomas
4th Floor
625 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, VA 22312-1176

EXAMINER

EVANS, CHARESSE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1615

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/774,188

Applicant(s)

SAWATZKI ET AL.

Examiner

Charesse L. Evans

Art Unit

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14,16,18,20,24,26,28,30 and 32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13,15,17,19,21-23,25,27,29 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Action Summary

Acknowledgement is made of applicant's amendment and remarks, filed September 16, 2002.

Acknowledgement is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d). Acknowledgement is made of applicant's request for a 3-month extension of time.

Acknowledgement is made of the cancellation of claims 1-12.
Acknowledgement is made of the addition of new claims 13-32.

The rejection of record of claims 1 and 12, under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn. The rejection of record of claim 12, under 35 USC 101, is withdrawn.

Claims 13-32 are active in this action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed September 16, 2002, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the cited prior art reference does not teach applicant's claimed composition. Examiner disagrees with this position.

Applicant is claiming a composition comprising two different, substantially soluble carbohydrate components. The cited prior art also teaches the same composition. When a component is included in a composition, all of its properties and advantages are inherent to the composition.

Green discloses a nutritional composition composed of oligosaccharides such as galacto-oligosaccharides present in the amount of 8-40% (column 3, lines 1-16). The reference composition also contains inulin which is a polysaccharide consisting of fructose units in an amount ranging from 20-40% (column 2, lines 48-56). While the reference does not expressly teach applicant's claimed amounts of carbohydrate components A and B, differences in concentration will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such concentration is critical. Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

The nutritional composition disclosed by Green may further contain digestible carbohydrates that may include monosaccharides, disaccharides and digestible oligo- and polysaccharides (column 4, lines 24-30). It has been shown that administration of fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS) enhances growth of the bifidobacteria population in the intestine, suppresses production of putrefactive factors, improves blood lipid

levels in hyperlipidemia patients and provides relief from constipation (Paul '134, column 7, lines 16-24).

Applicant further argues that the prior art does not teach the size distribution of DP2-6 (2 to 6 monosaccharide units) for component A and DP7 to maximum DP100 for component B whereby said components A and B have in addition a different chemical structure. Examiner disagrees with this position. Applicant appears to argue physical or functional characteristics of the A and B components. The Office does not have the facilities for examining and comparing applicant's product with the product of the prior art in order to establish that the product of the prior art does not possess the same material, structural, and functional characteristics of the claimed product. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the burden is upon the applicant to prove that the claimed products are functionally different than those taught by the prior art and to establish patentable differences. *See Ex parte Phillips*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1302, 1303 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1993), *Ex parte Gray*, 10 USPQ2d 1922, 1923 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int.) and *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 195 USPQ 430 (CCPA 1977).

Accordingly, the rejection is maintained as applied to claims 13, 15, 17, 19, 21-23, 25, 27, 29 and 31.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 are allowed.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charesse L. Evans whose telephone number is 703-308-6400. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00a - 4:30p; Alternating Fridays 7:00a - 3:30p.

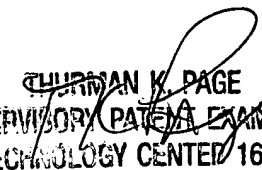
Application/Control Number: 09/774,188
Art Unit: 1615

Page 6

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page can be reached on 703-308-2927. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

Charesse Evans
December 2, 2002


THURMAN K. PAGE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600